



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***Public Forum Set for Small Business Owners to Comment About Federal Regulatory Enforcement***

**Glendale, CA** – Small business owners, community leaders and representatives of trade associations concerned about excessive enforcement of federal rules can voice their complaints at a U.S. Small Business Administration Regulatory Fairness Board Forum in Glendale, CA on **Thursday, June 14, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.**

The forum will be held at **The Los Angeles District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration located at 330 North Brand Blvd., Suite 1200, Glendale, CA 91203.**

SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens, members of the SBA's Region IX Regulatory Fairness Board, and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear comments and complaints about regulatory enforcement and compliance.

"One of the biggest concerns small business owners face is unfair enforcement of federal regulations. They also worry about telling their stories because they fear retaliation by federal agencies," Owens said. "Small business owners want to play by the rules and comply with federal regulations. We want to encourage Federal regulators to provide effective compliance assistance, rather than go straight to the penalty stage."

This forum offers small business owners a chance to express their concerns about federal compliance practices in California.

Comments and complaints presented during the forum will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency. This information will also be shared with federal officials in the Ombudsman's annual report to Congress, and with managers of federal regulatory agencies to assist them with their enforcement actions.

The National Ombudsman's authority to respond to comments on compliance issues is limited to federal regulatory enforcement matters and does not include concerns about obtaining federal contracts, regulations in general, or securing guaranteed loans.

The forum is open to the public. Those wishing to testify should contact Armida Brother at (818) 552-3233 or by email at [armida.brother@sba.gov](mailto:armida.brother@sba.gov) before the forum. Should a small business owner or representative be unable to attend, written testimony may be sent in advance of the forum to be included in the public record.

Comments and concerns about federal enforcement actions can be addressed directly to SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman at 1-888-734-3247 (REGFAIR). For more information about the National Ombudsman and this forum, you may visit the National Ombudsman's Web site at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman).

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